

NURSING IN MISSION STATIONS



HOW A SMALL HOSPITAL WAS STARTED

ABOUT ten months ago, Miss Beatrice H. Woodward, graduate of the Orange Memorial Hospital, was sent by Mrs. Whitelaw Reid to take up the duties as parish nurse for St. Matthew's Episcopal church, San Mateo, California. Before her arrival in our little village, we had thought that we were unusually free of any very poor and needy people; however, we soon knew differently. Miss Woodward has a faculty of finding them out. Her ever ready sympathy and help make her a welcome visitor every where. So, through her labor, the Red Cross Guild began—far from looking after and caring only for those inside our own parish, the work spread or rather broadened out enough to embrace every one in need, independent of race, creed or color. Before coming west, Miss Woodward had spent a short time in New York studying the district work there, and now a work that was wholly unknown in San Mateo a short year ago has borne fruit, for when Mrs. Reid understood the great good that was being done by our parish nurse, she again opened her generous heart—and plans were soon being made to build a hospital, which she would donate in memory of her mother. The hospital was to be an emergency one for those whom it was impossible to take as far as San Francisco.

So our little Cottage hospital was built with five rooms, two baths, a general sitting, dining, and office room, in one, kitchen, and a small servants' room. The total cost of this was five thousand dollars. Then comes last, but not least, our little operating room, sixteen by eighteen and a half; this cost twenty-five hundred dollars, and one seldom sees a more complete or handsomer operating room in even a large hospital and certainly never in a small one. Mrs. Reid cabled from her London home that the operating room and its belongings were to be of the best. The name of the Hospital is St. Matthew's Episcopal Red Cross Guild Hospital. It is under the jurisdiction of St. Matthew's Episcopal church and is built on the spacious church grounds. The hospital is

[It is our intention to give space to all missionary material which may come to us, in this department, whether it relates to work at home or abroad. The following article is not exactly on a missionary subject, but it is written about a work which has the true missionary spirit, and we are glad to present it here.—ED.]

affiliated with the National Red Cross of Washington and yet is independent, so that it need not report to headquarters except in case of national calamity, when we have volunteered to go hand in hand with them to our utmost capacity.

About two weeks before the dedication, a street car accident occurred near San Mateo. The building was just completed, but the instruments and most of the furniture were still packed but everything was hurriedly gotten ready by Miss L. W. Black, a graduate of the London Hospital, England. This lady had also been sent by Mrs. Reid to take charge of the hospital. Miss Black made it possible in a few hours for the surgeons to perform an amputation just below the right knee. Strangely enough, this first patient in our hospital was an employee in Mrs. Reid's father's service, and was therefore especially entitled to attention at this hospital. More than all it saved his life, for he surely would have died had he been taken to San Francisco, on account of the distance. Four more cases were taken in a few days later, one was a maternity case, the other two operative; and on January 23rd, at three P.M., when the dedication service was read, there were four patients and one little baby. There was also one new patient, whom Miss Woodward had found through her district work nearly dying, and as soon as she dared move her she was brought to the hospital.

The dedication service was conducted by the Rt. Rev. Wm. Ford Nichols, bishop of the diocese of California, assisted by Rev. N. B. W. Gallway, rector of the parish, with organist and choir. Ambassador and Mrs. Reid, as well as Mrs. Reid's father, Mr. D. O. Mills of Milbrae, California, were present. The opening hymn and prayer were in the main downstairs room, then the upstairs and finally the operating room were dedicated to the art of healing.

Mr. Gallway made an address in which he spoke of the blessing which had come to this community and expressed the hope that this small hospital would serve as a means of rousing the people to build a larger institution, really adequate to the need of this section. No discrimination was here to be made among patients as to race, color or creed, every one was to be made welcome, and as many as the place could accommodate should not only be made welcome but it should be made possible for them to receive their own clergy. Mr. Gallway said we are only trying to do what Jesus Christ would do were He here. He also hoped there would be many other little church hospitals erected until there should be a chain of such hospitals all over the land. He congratulated the donor on starting such a movement.

The Rev. Mr. Kimball of the Congregational church spoke for

the community which he represented and congratulated the parish upon the opportunities for good which this hospital offered.

Rev. S. Quickmire, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church, paid tribute to the noble woman who ministered to the wants of the Saviour and he was glad that it had entered into the heart of a woman to render service to the sons and daughters of the Heavenly Father.

Dr. Offield spoke for the medical profession. He said already, before the formal opening, this hospital had saved more than one man's life, and he congratulated the hospital on having well-trained nurses.

The bishop then gave the closing address, speaking of church hospitals from a historic standpoint and showing their unifying influence, not only upon the Church but upon the communities in which they were situated.

The first church hospital in this country was started sixty years ago by Rev. Dr. Muhlenberg of New York City in two small rooms in a back alley, and to-day it has a large building. Since this beginning, the country has literally been dotted with such institutions of mercy. He felt sure that in San Mateo, from this time on, doctors, patients, nurses and people would be drawn more and more together, till at last they would form one great family in sickness as well as in health—and all because of the Red Cross Guild in our town.

After a closing prayer the nurses showed the visitors over the building. As a nurse myself, and also a churchwoman, I am more than proud to know that all this has been brought to life through the patient work of a sister nurse.

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A CALL TO THE PHILIPPINES

WE call special attention to those of our readers who have a bent for missionary work, to the letter from Mr. John W. Wood, secretary of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church, to be found in the letter department. A number of important posts in the missionary field, have been filled through announcements made in our pages, and we are always glad to give space to such requests, when asked to do so.

NEW EDUCATION IN CHINA

A NEW method to simplify the Chinese language is being introduced for use in the newly opened public schools of China. Fifty or sixty

of the main sounds have been selected and incorporated into a system somewhat on the plan of shorthand, and several of the schools are already giving it a trial. In other ways, too, the educational system is being modified and made more simple. Instead of conning the wise saying of the sages, Chinese school children now read stories of familiar objects from brightly illustrated primers and graded books, as American children do. The Christian mission school has had a powerful influence in bringing about this change. As the boys and girls trained in mission schools have grown to maturity, their good citizenship has been felt, and China is asking for more such men and women. Though government schools are being opened everywhere, the mission schools are more crowded than ever before.

MISS REBECCA SAVILLE ATKINSON

MISS REBECCA SAVILLE ATKINSON is a member of St. Philip's Church, Philadelphia, her native city. She was educated partly in Philadelphia and partly in Detroit. Four years ago she entered the Training School of the Protestant Episcopal Hospital of Philadelphia, graduating in the class of 1906. Since then she has devoted herself to private nursing. Recognizing the physical and spiritual needs of people in distant lands, and the work that can be done through the mission hospital to open the way for the Gospel, she offered for the Philippines, expecting to make missionary service her life work, and expressing her willingness to go elsewhere if necessary. Those under whom she secured her training speak highly of her ability as a nurse.—*Spirit of Missions*.

